

Health Reform Provides Health for One Million New Youth

Written by Mike Honda
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Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that over one million young adults have gained health insurance over the last year as a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). [New statistics](#) from a variety of organizations have shown this to be one of the many impactful accomplishments of the Affordable Care Act.

By allowing most children to stay on their parents' health insurance plans up to the age of 26, ACA has made a difference in the number of insured citizens in our country. Young adults are the largest uninsured group in America—as nearly one in three is lacking coverage—but this particular facet of the ACA has already started to remedy that.

The National Center for Health Statistics released a survey this week that showed the percentage of 19- to 25-year-olds with health insurance rising 3.5 percentage points in the first quarter of 2011, or an increase of approximately one million youth. I believe it's important for everyone to have affordable health care coverage, especially those who are just starting off on their career paths. Previously, young people would lose their coverage at 18 when they graduated high school, or a few years later after they finished college, and part-time students were ineligible for insurance, which hurt many students who need to work to pay for their education.

By passing health care reform, we have already changed the lives of one million youth for the better. This provision gives young Americans the peace of mind to know they can be protected up to the age of 26, and allows them the freedom to take chances with their career without worrying about their health insurance.

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We can expect to see many other great benefits come out of the Affordable Care Act in the months and years to come, especially after the bulk of the provisions kick-in in 2014. An additional one million young adults with health insurance is a great start and a sign of many positive things to come.